

AMENDMENTS

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (twice amended) A method of preparing 2-methyl-4-(4-methyl-1-piperaziny)-10H-thieno[2,3-b][1,5]-benzodiazepine comprising the following steps:

- A) preparing 2-amino-5-methylthiophene-3-carbonitrile by mixing sulfur, [propionaldehyde] propionaldehyde in dimethylformamide, then adding triethyl amine, then adding malononitrile;
- B) preparing 2-(2-nitroanilino)-5-methylthiophene-3-carbonitrile from the reaction product of step (A) by reaction with a slurry of sodium hydride dispersed in oil in tetrahydrofuran and [2-fluoro-nitrobenze] 2-fluoronitrobenzene;
- C) preparing 4-amino-2-methyl-10H-[thiono]thieno[2,3-b][1,5]benzodiazepine hydrochloride from the reaction product of step (B) by reacting with a slurry of 2-(2-nitroanilino)-5-methyl-thiophene-3-carbonitrile in ethanol and a solution of anhydrous stannous chloride in hydrochloric acid;
- D) preparing 2-methyl-4-(4-methyl-1-piperaziny)-10H-thieno[2,3-b][1,5]benzodiazepine by refluxing the reaction product of step (C) with a mixture of N-methylpiperazine, dimethylsulphoxide and toluene.

Please cancel claims 2-13.

Please amend previously submitted new claims 25 and 26 as follows:

25. (new) A method of preparing 2-methyl-4-(4-methyl-1-piperaziny)-10H-thieno[2,3-b][1,5]-benzodiazepine comprising the following steps:

- A) preparing 2-amino-5-methylthiophene-3-carbonitrile by mixing sulfur, propionaldehyde in dimethylformamide, then adding triethyl amine, then adding malononitrile;
- B) preparing 2-(2-nitroanilino)-5-methylthiophene-3-carbonitrile from the reaction product of step (A) by reaction with potassium carbonate or lithium hydroxide in dimethylsulphoxide and 2-fluoronitrobenzene;
- C) preparing 4-amino-2-methyl-10H-thieno[2,3-b][1,5]benzodiazepine hydrochloride from the reaction product of step (B) by reacting with a slurry of 2-(2-nitroanilino)-5-methyl-thiophene-3-carbonitrile in ethanol and a solution of anhydrous stannous chloride in hydrochloric acid;